way are capacity constraints, deficient road geometrics/road junctions, and lack of traffic discipline.

(b) to (e) The proposal is to widen the entire stretch of road in question forming parts of National Highway Nos. 8A and 8B into four-laned carriageway in a phased manner inter-alia keeping in view the availability of funds etc. About 21.80 km length already stands widened into four-lane while the four-laning work is in progress in a length of 31.70 km which is targetted for completion by June, 1999. Further, another 10.00 km of road length has been included for widening into four-lanes in the annual Plan (1998-99) at an estimated cost of Rs. 12.00 crores.

Flights from Jabalpur to other parts of Madhya Pradesh

*296. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Jabalpur airport has been receiving a face lift for the last couple of years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to start flights from Jabalpur to other parts of Madhya Pradesh as also to link Jabalpur to Delhi and Mumbai; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Jabalpur Airport has been upgraded for operation of Boeing 737 aircraft. The runway was strengthend/extended from 4500 ft. to 6500 ft. alongwith associated pavement in November, 1998 at a cost of Rs. 11.76 crores.

(c) and (d) The Government have laid down route dispersal guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country. It is, however, upto the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines issued by Government.

All Inda Radio Stations without Directors

*297. DR. M.N. DAS: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that several Stations of All India Radio are functioning in the country without Directors;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken steps to fill up the posts; and

(c) if not, how much more time Government will take to fill up the vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) To overcome the shortage in this grade, the Ministry has resorted to ad-hoc promotions and 132 Junior Time Scale Officers (Assistant Station Directors) of Indian Broadcasting (Programme) Service in AIR have recently been promoted to Senior Time Scale (Station Directors) on ad-hoc basis.

गणतंत्र दिवस के अवसर पर जसदेव सिंह को आंखों देखा हाल सुनाने से रोकना

*298. प्रो॰ रामगोपाल यादव:
श्री ईश दत्त यादव:

क्या सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) पिछले 37 वर्षों से गणतंत्र दिवस और अन्य अवसरों पर आंखों देखा हाल सुनाने वाले श्री जसदेव सिंह को इस बार गणतंत्र दिवस के अवसर पर आखों देखा हाल सुनाने से रोकने के क्या कारण हैं और उक्त आदेश किसने जारी किया;

(ख) क्या सरकार इस संबंध में एक जांच कराकर दोषी अधिकारियों के विरुद्ध कार्रवाई करेगी; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं?